

What is claimed is:

1. A method for use in reauthentication of a communication session involving the exchange of information between a terminal (21) and a server (24) via an authentication network (28), the communication session having already been authenticated by the terminal (21) and a first authentication server (23a) of the authentication network (28), the method characterized by:

5 a step (11) in which the first authentication server (23a) and other authentication servers (23b) are each assigned a respective unique realm name; and

10 a step (13) in which during authentication between the terminal and the first authentication server (23a), the first authentication server (23a) transmits to the terminal (21) a reauthentication identity including the unique realm name assigned to the first authentication server.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further characterized by:

20 a step (14) in which to perform a reauthentication the terminal (21) transmits a request for reauthentication using the reauthentication identity including the unique realm name; and

25 a step (15) in which an authentication network element (21a 22 23a 23b) receiving the request for reauthentication determines from the reauthentication identity included in the request the unique realm name indicating the authentication server (23a) that performed the full authentication.

3. The method of claim 2, further characterized by:

30 a step (15) in which an authentication network element (21a 22 23b) forwards the request to the authentication server (23a) indicated by the unique realm name included as part of the reauthentication identity; and

a step (16 17) in which the terminal (21) and the first authentication server (23a) perform reauthentication.

4. An authentication server (23a 23b) in a cellular communication system comprising means for reauthentication of a communication session between a terminal (21) and a content server (25), the authentication server (23a 23b) characterized by:

means (11) for receiving an assigned unique realm name; and

means (13) for transmitting to the terminal (21) a reauthentication identity including the unique realm name.

5. An authentication server as in claim 4, further characterized by:

means (15) for receiving a request for reauthentication using the reauthentication identity and for determining from the reauthentication identity the unique realm name.

6. An authentication server as in claim 5, further characterized by:

means (16) for forwarding the request to the authentication server (23a) indicated by the unique realm name included as part of the reauthentication identity.

7. A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in an authentication server (23a), with said computer program code characterized in that it includes instructions for enabling the means of an apparatus according to claim 4.

8. A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for

execution by a computer processor in an authentication server (23a), with said computer program code characterized in that it includes instructions for enabling the means of an apparatus according to claim 5.

5 9. A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in an authentication server (23a), with said computer program code characterized in that it includes instructions for enabling the means of an apparatus
10 according to claim 6.

15 10. A system, including a plurality of terminals (21), a plurality of authentication servers (23a 23b), and at least one content server (24), the terminals (21) operative so as to request content from the content server (24) after authentication and occasional reauthentication with one or another of the authentication servers (23a 23b), the system characterized in that at least two of the authentication servers (23a 23b) are as in claim 4.

20 11. A system, including a plurality of terminals (21), a plurality of authentication servers (23a 23b), and at least one content server (24), the terminals (21) operative so as to request content from the content server (24) after authentication and occasional reauthentication with one or another of the authentication servers (23a 23b), the system
25 characterized in that at least two of the authentication servers (23a 23b) are as in claim 5.

30 12. A system, including a plurality of terminals (21), a plurality of authentication servers (23a 23b), and at least one content server (24), the terminals (21) operative so as to request content from the content server (24) after authentication and occasional reauthentication with one or

another of the authentication servers (23a 23b), the system characterized in that at least two of the authentication servers (23a 23b) are as in claim 6.